



## King County

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CLERK  
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

June 29, 2012

The Honorable Larry Gossett  
Chair, King County Council  
Room 1200  
COURTHOUSE

Dear Councilmember Gossett:

This letter transmits King County's first Strategic Climate Action Plan and a motion to adopt the plan pursuant to Ordinance 17270.

Climate change is a daunting challenge that will require bold action by many players. King County and its partners are taking action in many areas—from green buildings to alternative transportation to reducing flood impacts—to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change. This work is demonstrating that a sustainable environment goes hand-in-hand with healthy people, a prosperous economy, and vibrant communities.

The 2012 Strategic Climate Action Plan synthesizes and focuses King County's most critical goals, objectives, and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the effects of climate change. The plan provides a single, comprehensive source of information for County decision-makers, employees, and the general public to learn about the County's most vital climate change actions.

By focusing on priorities and by defining performance measures and targets, the plan provides clarity and accountability to elected officials, the public, and County agencies and employees. The plan will inform key policy and budget decisions. It will also serve as the framework for annual reporting along with the County's energy, green building and environmental purchasing programs. Implementing the plan will further the Economic Growth and Built Environment and Environmental Sustainability goals of the King County Strategic Plan by promoting sustainable communities and protecting our natural resources.

The plan builds upon and reflects the King County Comprehensive Plan, 2007 Climate Plan, 2006 and 2012 Climate Motions, 2010 Energy Plan, Strategic Plan for Public Transportation 2011-2021, Open Space Plan, and Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan. The plan also integrates best practices from other leading climate action efforts, including plans from the cities of Eugene, Seattle, and Portland as well as Multnomah (Oregon) and Skagit counties.

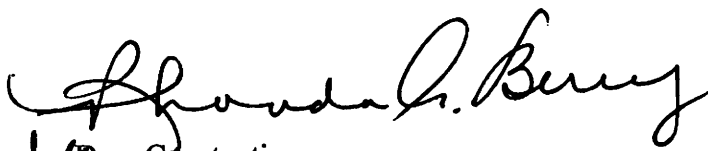
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It is estimated that this plan required 244 staff hours to produce, costing approximately \$15,000. The plan will be available online at [www.kingcounty.gov/climate](http://www.kingcounty.gov/climate).

I appreciate the support of the Council for the work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to maintain King County's strong leadership role in addressing climate change.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Matt Kuharic, Senior Climate Change Specialist in the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, at 206-296-8738.

Sincerely,



*Dow Constantine*  
Dow Constantine  
King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Michael Woywod, Chief of Staff

Mark Melroy, Senior Principal Legislative Analyst, BFM Committee

John Resha, Senior Legislative Analyst, King County Council

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Carrie S. Cihak, Chief Advisor, Policy and Strategic Initiatives, King County  
Executive Office (KCEO)

Megan Smith, Environmental Policy Advisor, KCEO

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

Caroline Whalen, County Administrative Officer, Department of Executive Services

John Starbard, Director, Department of Development and Environmental Services

Harold Taniguchi, Director, Department of Transportation

Dr. David Fleming, Director, Public Health – Seattle & King County

Christie True, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)

Matt Kuharic, Senior Climate Change Specialist, DNRP